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Adm. Inman resigns from No. 2 CIA post

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Washington—Adm. Bobby R. Inman resigned as deputy director of central intelligence yesterday, exchanging cordial letters with President Reagan that an informed official said cloaked differences with the current system.

In a telephone interview, however, Admiral Inman said reports that policy disagreements prompted his departure were "really not valid. Somebody's trying to make a good story that's not there. . . . I've had my share of bureaucratic battles. . . . I've won more than my share—I'm not stomping off angry."

In his letter of resignation, released by the White House, Admiral Inman, 51, praised Mr. Reagan's actions to strengthen the intelligence system. In turn, Mr. Reagan accepted the resignation with "deep regret" and thanked the admiral for his achievements in a 30-year Navy career—most of it in intelligence work.

Admiral Inman said he also will resign his Navy commission unless he receives another active-duty assignment, which "I do not anticipate." He would remain until a successor is confirmed by the Senate, he said—he hoped by the end of next month.

He took the job as deputy director "reluctantly" last year, the admiral recalled, and he believed that "the initial challenge has now been met." One report said he will enter private business, where his expertise in high technology presumably would be in great demand.

The admiral indicated that he had hoped to leave government service and start a second career when he left his job as head of the National Security Agency and was persuaded, instead, to take the CIA job in the Reagan administration.

"When I was leaving the NSA job, I'd had a super time [like] running a large corporation. It was fun and I thought that was the right time to transfer to a new life-style," said the admiral, who ran that supersecret code and surveillance agency for four years.

"My arm was twisted, that's no secret, to help the new administration to get itself

commitment that they would set out to do a long-range rebuilding program. That's been done. The plan has been endorsed . . . the money and people are beginning to flow."

As in Admiral Inman's personal explanation, there was no hint of ill feeling in the formal exchange with the president. But an official who watches the intelligence community closely said Admiral Inman "did not see eye to eye" with William J. Casey, who as director of central intelligence and head of the Central Intelligence Agency is his boss.

This source and others with the same view were unable to give examples, however. One said merely that Mr. Casey allowed Admiral Inman to take responsibility for mistakes and retained credit for himself.

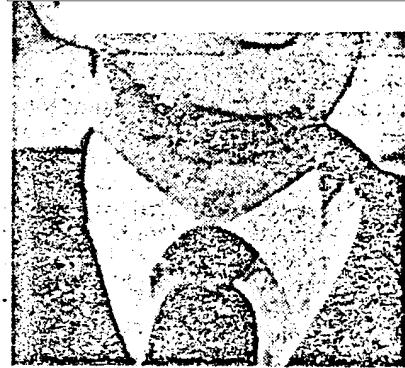
"Have I had various bureaucratic disagreements?" Admiral Inman asked, echoing an interviewer's question. "The answer is absolutely yes." But, he went on, "in most cases" they were resolved in good working relationships. Asked about his boss at the CIA, Mr. Casey, Admiral Inman replied, "Ours is a cordial relationship."

The admiral said his plans are open, adding that he had been planning his departure since last month. "I sent the letter off in March to get them off the dime to address the fact that this summer I really want to do fresh things. . . . It was time to get on with my second career."

The admiral is a great favorite with Congress, having received Senate confirmation last year by a 94-0 vote. His self-effacing, fact-loaded briefings have been praised by liberals and conservatives alike.

Early last year, his testimony before the Senate Intelligence Committee defused concern over reported administration plans to authorize CIA spying on American citizens and conduct covert operations in the United States. The admiral made it clear, Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan (D, N.Y.) reported, that "the job of the CIA is abroad."

After that, the guidelines for intelligence activity went through several drafts, finally emerging in an executive order by Mr. Reagan on December 4. The long document in fact authorized intelligence agencies to collect information at home and the CIA,



ADM. BOBBY R. INMAN
... plans second career at 51

It broadened the activities permitted in guidelines fixed by former President Carter. But it did not go as far as some Reagan administration officials had proposed in early drafts.

The order says that the domestic activities must not be "intended to influence United States political processes, public opinion, policies or media, and do not include diplomatic activities." They must be reported to the intelligence committees of both houses of Congress.

There was some concern that Admiral Inman's absence may result in the guidelines being tightened again. Senator Joseph R. Biden, Jr. (D, Del.), was quoted last night as saying that "without him, the intelligence agencies may be given license to try all kinds of questionable things here and abroad."

At 51, Admiral Inman looks even younger. His career was meteoric, especially since he graduated not from the Naval Academy but from the University of Texas, in 1950, as a reserve officer.

Most of his career has been in intelligence, more recently with emphasis on high technology. It was the prime consideration in his work as director of the National Security Agency—which makes and breaks codes and conducts electronic surveillance—from 1977 until he was assigned to the CIA.

Earlier assignments ranged from assistant naval attache in Stockholm to assistant chief of staff for intelligence in the Pacific fleet during the